

HO-61

HOWARD COUNTY FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 BUILDING

1896

Ellicott City

Public

The old Engine House for Fire Company No. 1 is perched atop and set into the steep triangular lot bounded by the north side of Main Street and the south side of Church Road. This prime location offered its members that much needed "good running start".

In those days the men had to pull the pump to the site of the fire. Later a horse was employed and finally in the 1920's a Model T Ford.

Due to this fiasco, Ellicott City lost some of her most prized landmarks, among them Rock Hill and Saint Charles Colleges, the Gambrill Manufacturing Company and the old post office building on Main Street.

Now the Ellicott City Branch of the Howard County Library, it has been altered somewhat but still retains its picturesque cupola decorated with weather vane and horn.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Howard County Fire Department Building

AND/OR COMMON

Howard County Public Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

8210 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Howard County Board of Commissioners Telephone #: 465-5000

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

21043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office

Tax Map 25-A p. 1

Liber #: 152/84

Folio #: 44/615

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

July 1977

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

HO-61  
Dist 2

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The fire Department building, now the Ellicott City Branch of the Howard County Public Library is a two bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame building resting on a stone foundation which is set into the slope of a triangular lot on the north side of Main Street and the south side of Church Road. It is surmounted by an onion shaped cupola resting on a square base which is centered on the west side of the gabled roof.

#### West Elevation

The west wall holds a rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a transom composed of a double row of three panes, all of which is flanked by pilasters decorated with rectangular molding and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel and molded cornice. The double-hung window which rests south of the west entrance holds six-over-six panes (the bottom three are taken up by an air conditioning unit). Centered above rests the copula with an horn.

#### North Elevation

The north elevation holds three rectangular, double-hung windows, flanked by flat pilasters, underlined by projecting wooden sills, surmounted by flat wooden lintels, holding four-over-four lights. The brick foundation is partially exposed, sloping up the hill and laid in English garden wall brick bond.

#### South Elevation

The south elevation, due to the slope of the hill is a two story high frame wall, resting on a stone foundation.

A wooden cross paneled, rectangular entrance rests in the west bay of the ground floor flanked by wooden pilasters and surmounted by a two light transom and flat wooden lintel. The three windows to the east are similar those described on the north elevation. Four first floor windows (on this elevation second floor windows) rest above, vertically aligned to the ground floor door and windows and similar to them with one exception: they are decorated with black shutters. The stone foundation of this south wall is a part of the stone retaining wall running from the new building of the Howard House up to the intersection of Main St and Church Road.

#### The East Elevation

The east elevation indicates the slope of the land. A cinder block foundation is partially exposed, into which is located in the south bay a rectangular, paneled ground floor entrance door with steps running along this east wall up a rectangular second floor entrance in the north bay. A single first floor (second floor on this elevation) rectangular, double-hung window is located in the south bay, similar to the others and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

decorated with black shutters. A small square chimney with cement cap is inset into the middle of the east wall. The roof on this side is hipped while it is gabled on the west.

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard County Fire Department building was constructed in 1896 to house the fire equipment of Fire Company No. 1 of Ellicott City. This equipment consisted mainly of leather buckets and ropes. The total destruction of Mr. Thomas Hunts' Stable by a fire started by the explosion of a fire cracker led to the campaign which resulted in the acquisition of a bright red Howe man-powered pumper, mounted on wheels, which was to be used with a two-wheeled hose reel.

This new equipment, too, had draw backs. The men pulling it down the steep hill had to run like mad in order to avoid accident and pull like mad to get it back up the hill to store it. With the hill they always had a "good running start".

Ten years later a hand-pulled two-wheeled truck supported a gasoline engine. Supplanting the old see-saw pumper, it exceeded it in weight. This later was replaced by a modern horse-drawn gasoline pumper. Unfortunately for Ellicott Mills, Mr. Herrmann was the only man in the brigade capable of getting it started. For fifteen years it served Ellicott City until it capsized on the way to a fire and was completely demolished.

By 1924 a modern fire engine and new station house were purchased and this little building set aside for other purposes; headquarters of the Howard County Welfare Board, the Health Department, the Sanitation Department and now the Library. Its large west door was replaced by two windows, one of which, the north bay window later became the present entrance.

Sitting on its steep slope and retaining much of its original character and architectural integrity, it should be considered for inclusion to the National Register and any future local landmark legislation.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Association of University Women. Historical notes for members conducting tours of Historic Ellicott City. 1972

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .093 Lot = 78'x52'

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A, p. 1 152-44 and 84-615

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A, p. 1 152-44 and 84-615

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

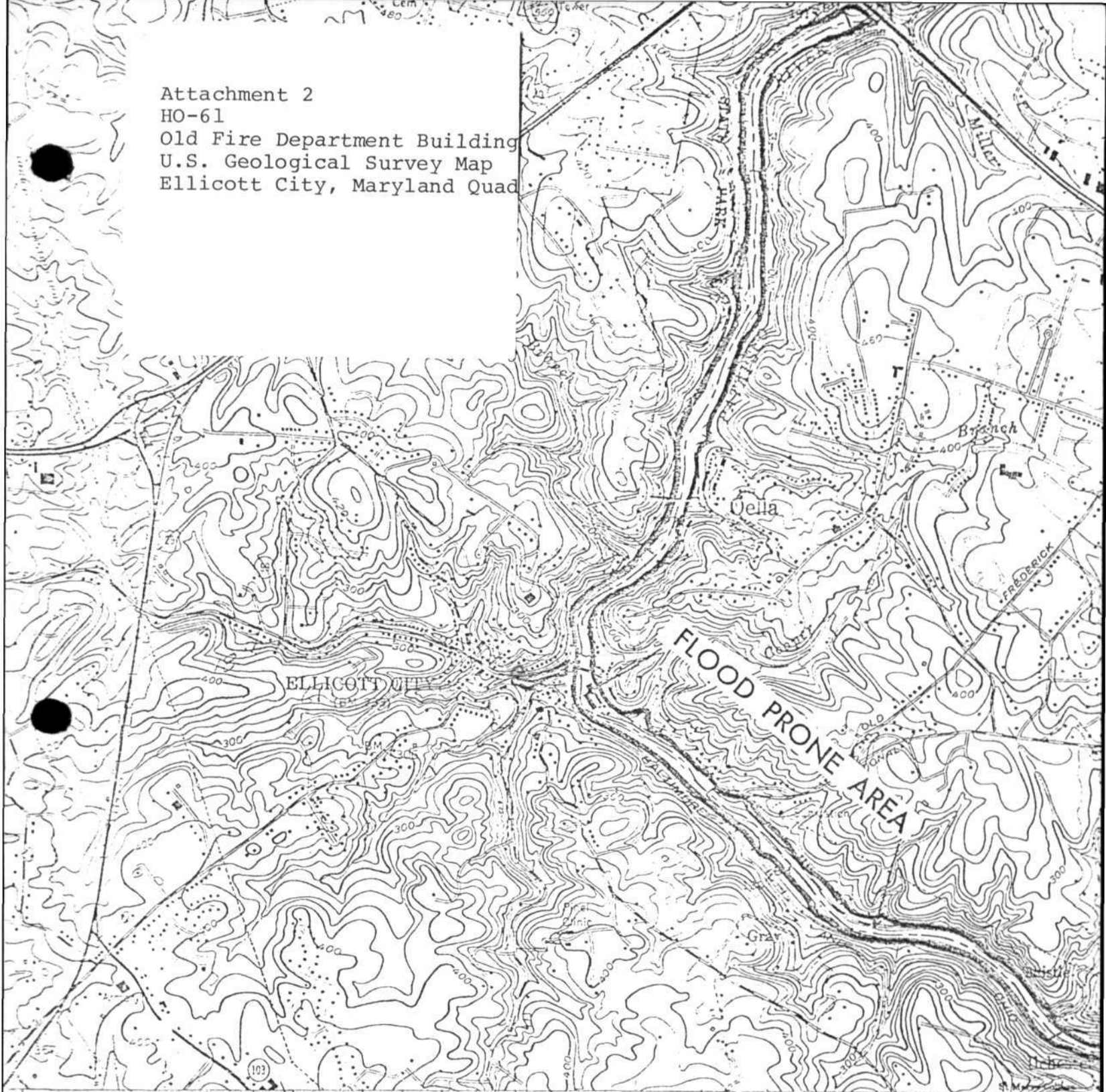
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Attachment 1  
HO-61  
Old Fire Department Building  
Tax Map 25-A

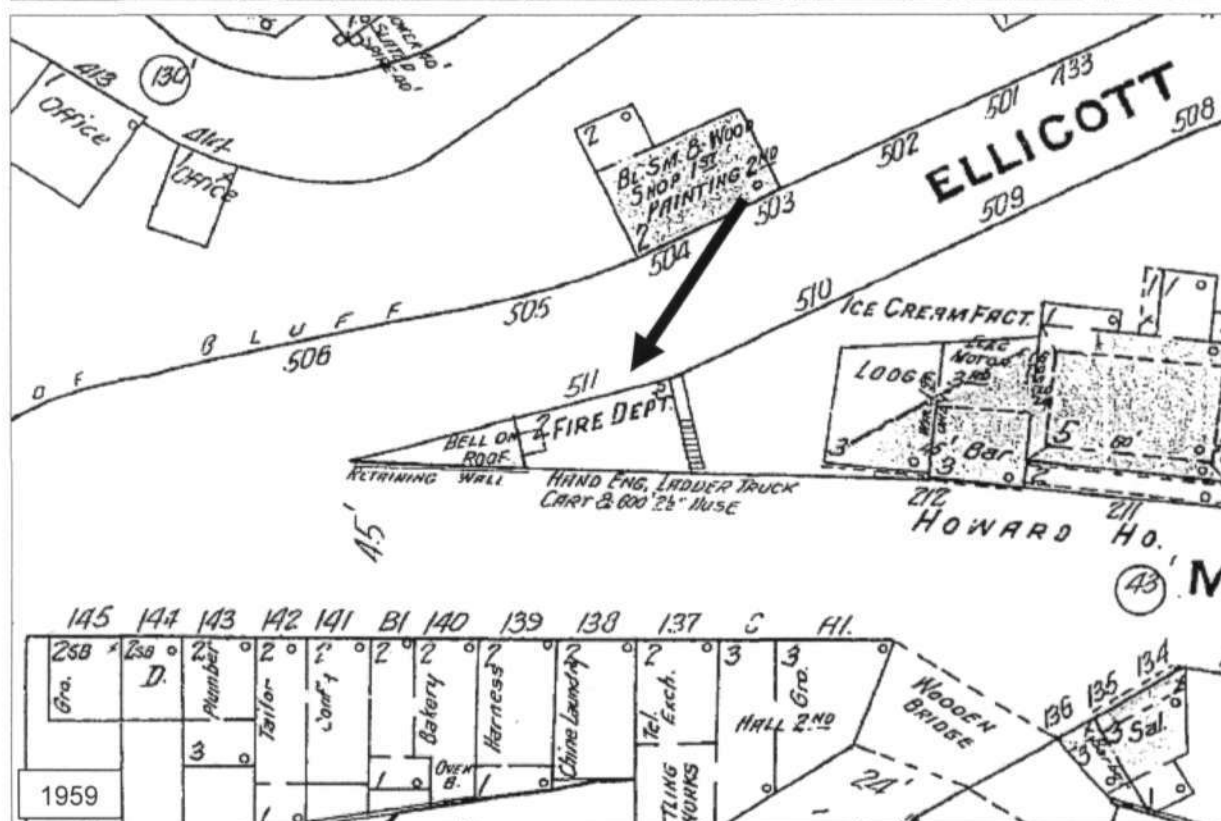
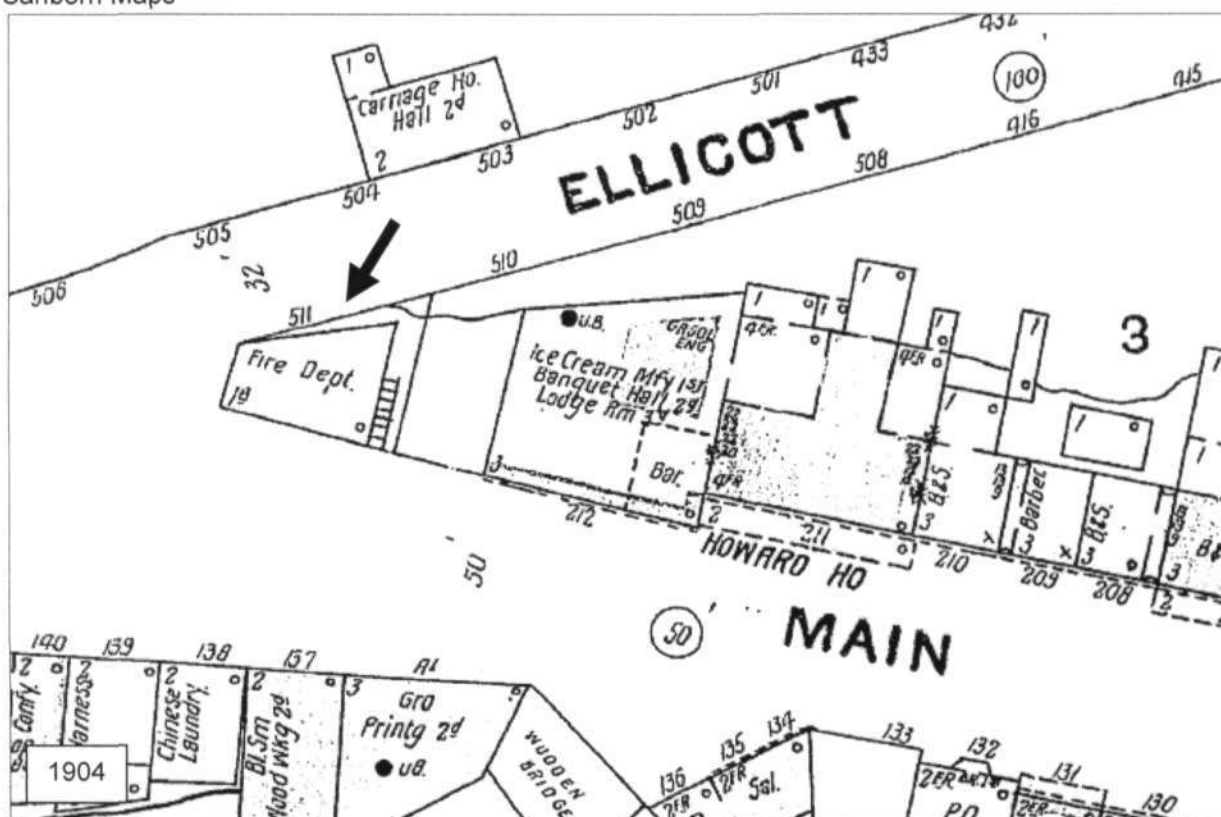
Attachment 2  
 HO-61  
 Old Fire Department Building  
 U.S. Geological Survey Map  
 Ellicott City, Maryland Quad





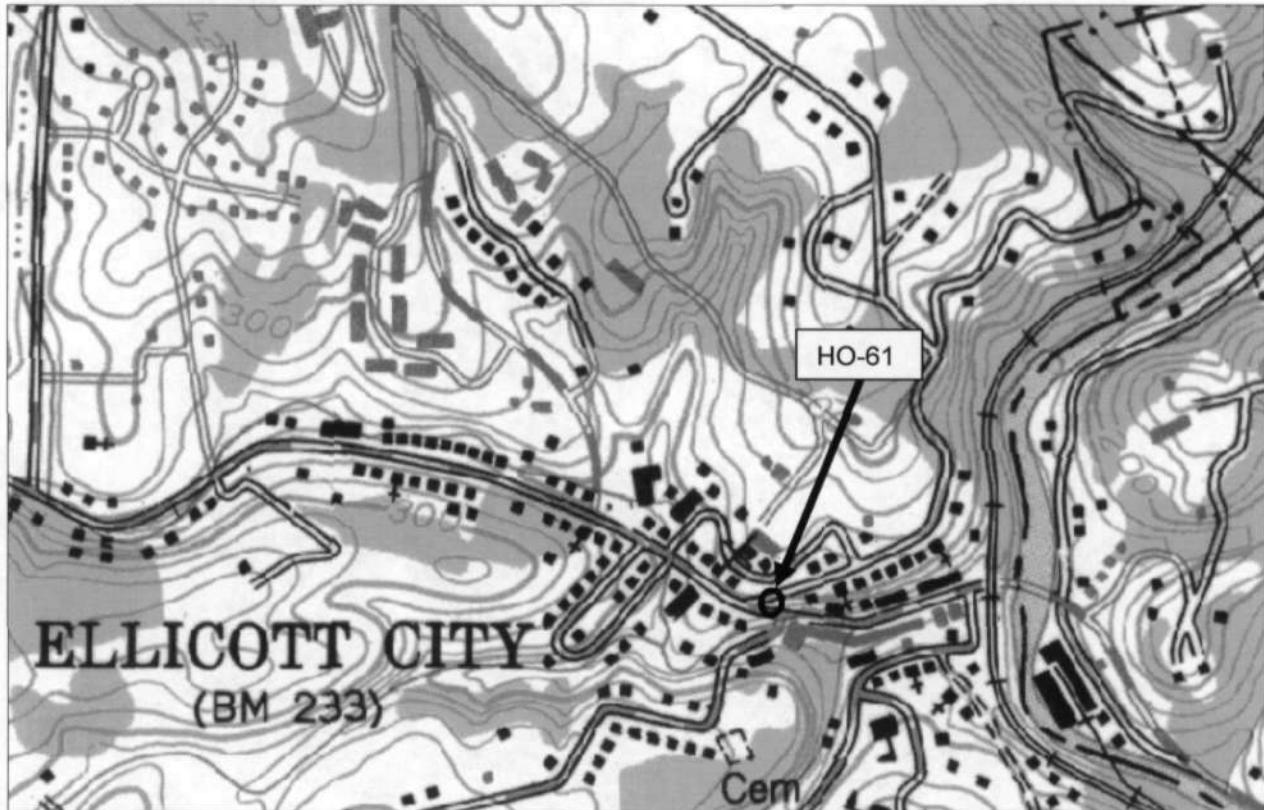
HO-61

The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)  
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City  
Sanborn Maps



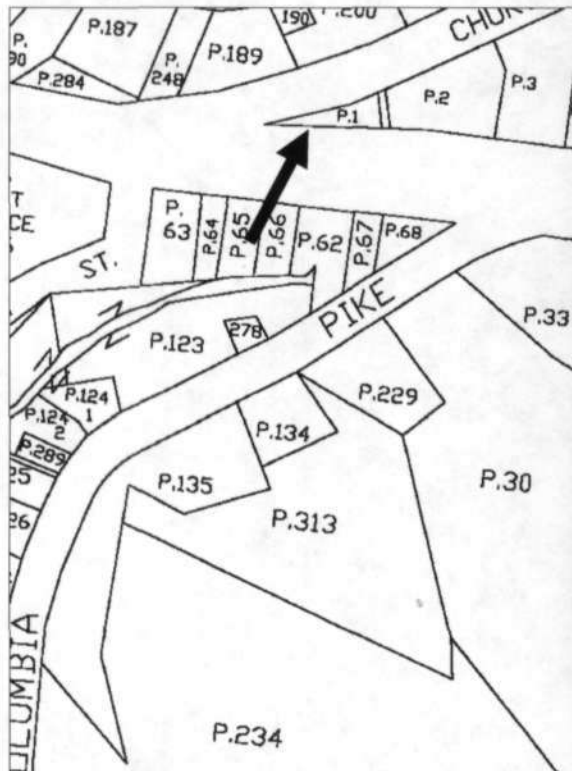
HO-61

The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)  
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City  
Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25A, Parcel 1

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



HO-61

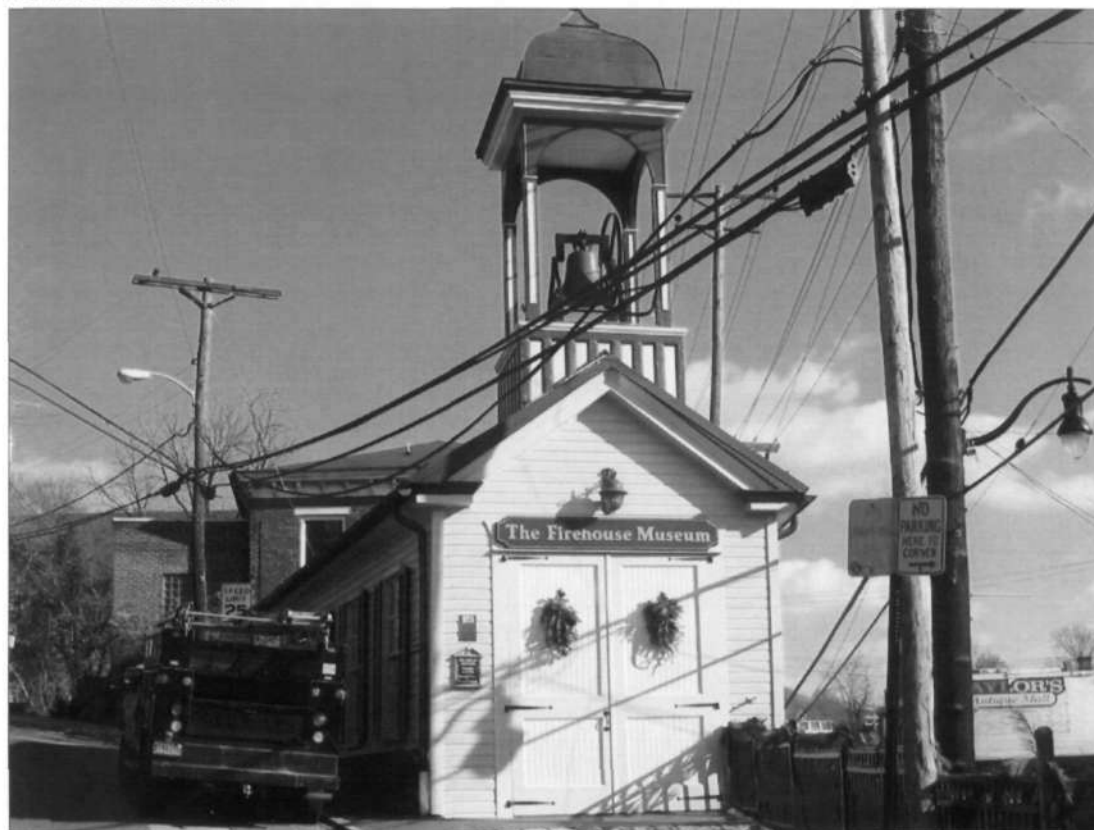
The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)  
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

West elevation



Northwest elevation

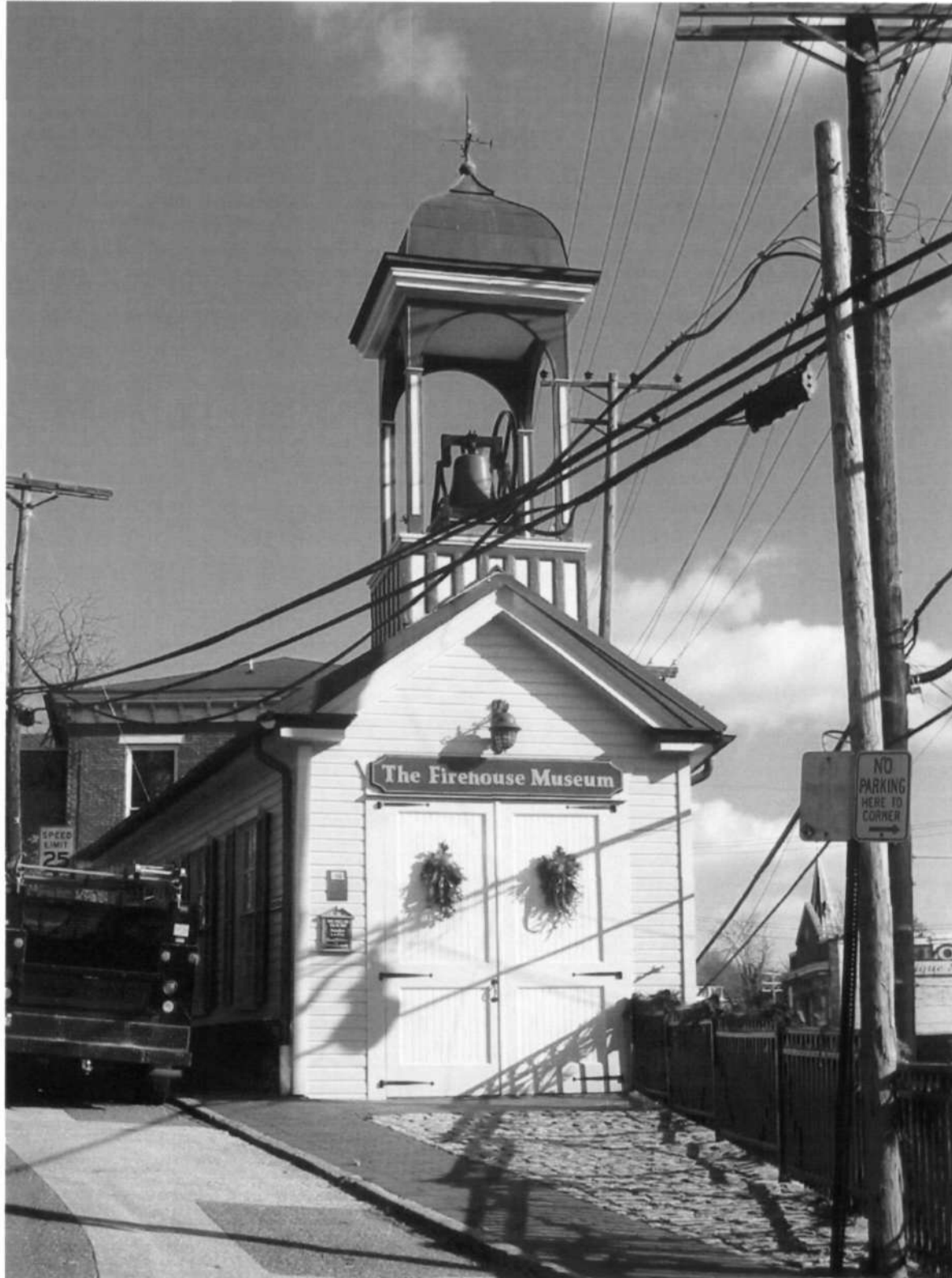


HO-61

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3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

Northwest elevation





HO-61

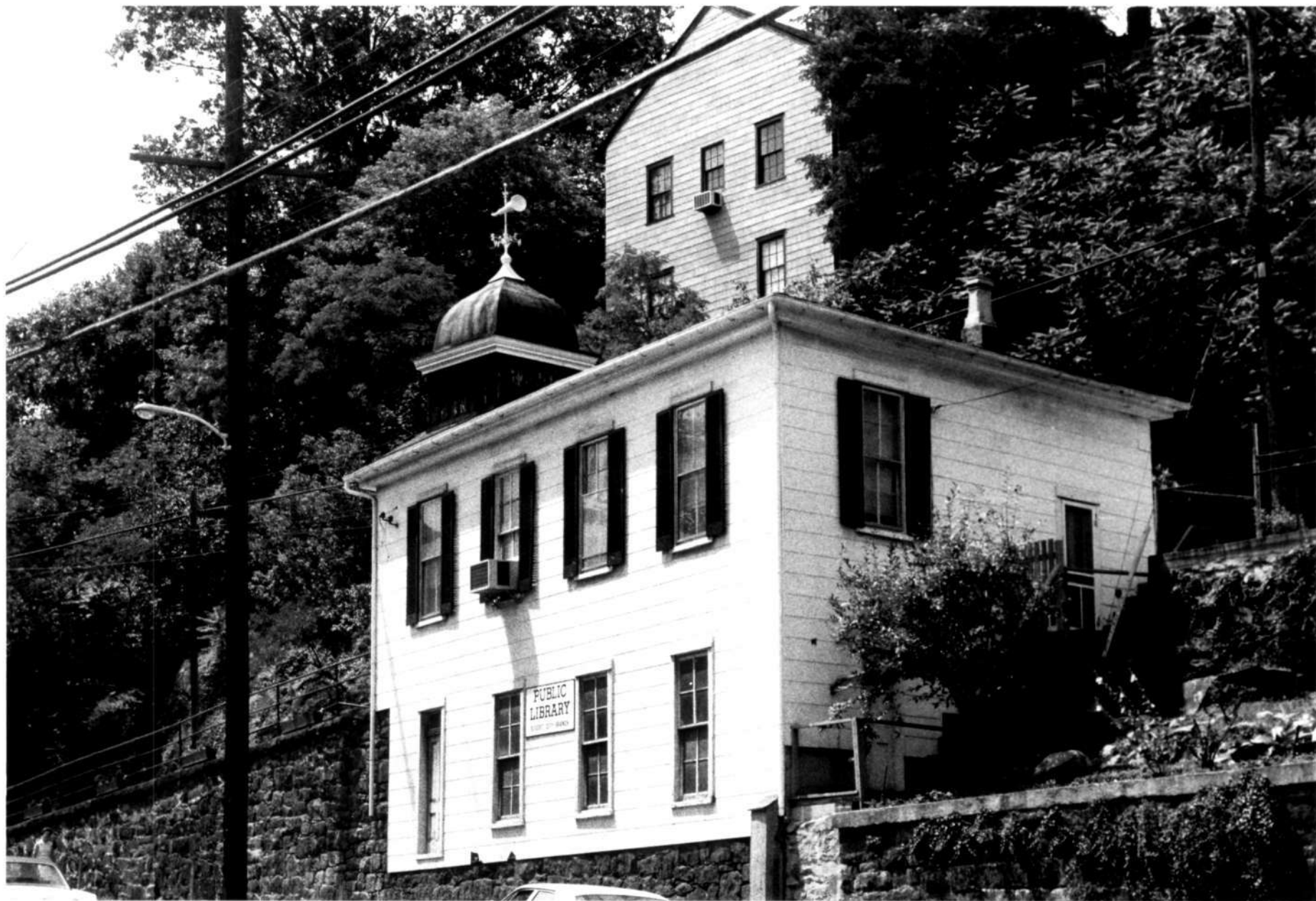
The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)  
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

Southeast elevation







CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HD-61 H.C. FIRE DEPT BLDG  
SOUTH EAST  
JULY - 1977



#0.61

Ellicott City

Old Howard County Fire Department

Dec 10/72





HO. 61

Waco # City

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Old Howard Co. Fire Company